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Raborn Will Head Navy's Research In Move to Centralize Civilian Control

By John G. Norris
Staff Reporter

President Kennedy put Vice Adm. William F. Raborn, "the Polaris man," in charge of over-all Navy research and development yesterday under a significant Pentagon reorganization.

Like prior Defense Department organization changes under the Kennedy Administration, the shift is aimed at more centralized civilian control, while making fullest use of Raborn's proven management abilities over complex weapons systems.

John H. Wakelin, Assistant Secretary of the Navy for research, said the administrative reorganization, while considerably less extensive and dramatic, may be viewed as a Navy counterpart to the recent Army reorganization and the earlier establishment of the Air Force systems command.

Under the change, Raborn will succeed Vice Adm. John T. Hayward as deputy chief of

naval operations for development. Hayward already has been ordered to sea, although he also is under consideration for appointment as deputy director of the CIA.

But unlike Hayward, Raborn will report to Wakelin as well as Adm. George W. Anderson, Chief of Naval Operations.

Under a change previously ordered, Wakelin has control of most of the Navy's research and development money, which is appropriated to various bureaus. The civilian research chief, however, has only a small staff.

Under the new setup, Raborn will have both the authority and responsibility for planning and programming research and development and also technical direction and execution of the programs and control of the money as delegated to him by Wakelin.

Another aspect of the Navy reorganization, which has been worked out in recent months, puts all research and development for the vital field of antisubmarine warfare (ASW) under a single director. Previously, direction of ASW research had been divided among the Navy bureaus, the naval operations office and Wakelin. Rear Adm. William Groverman has been named head of the ASW research office, under Raborn.

Still another change abolished an office directing all phases of antisubmarine warfare that was directly under the chief of naval operations. Submarine defense and offense operations now are assigned to the deputy chief of naval operations for operations and readiness, Vice Adm. Charles D. Griffin.

Raborn, a Texan who was

the "father of the Polaris submarine" by bringing the revolutionary weapon into operation in unprecedented time, is expected to extend the use of a new management technique created for the Polaris program.

Under the system, the manifold phases of a complex project are broken down into manageable jobs, and detailed work and procurement schedules are set up according to optimistic, pessimistic and "most probable" estimates of the time required. Progress is checked periodically by computers.

In this way, top executives can spot impending bottlenecks to correct them, or often prevent them before they develop.

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